

REMARKS

Summary Of Advisory Action

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

The Examiner maintained his rejections of claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Jackson et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,716,355 in view of Cotrel U.S. Patent No. 5,601,552, Drewry et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,947,966, and Jackson U.S. Patent No. 5,980,523.

Claims 1-21 were previously allowed.

Summary Of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have proposed canceling claims 22 and 23 without prejudice, rendering moot their rejections. Applicants have proposed amending claim 18 to correct a minor antecedence error.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the proposed amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Showing of Good and Sufficient Reasons Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(3)

Applicants request amendment of this application, even though a final rejection has been issued. The proposed cancellation of rejected claims 22 and 23 places this application in condition for allowance. The proposed amendment of claim 18 merely corrects a minor antecedence error. Thus, no additional search or consideration should be required. Accordingly,

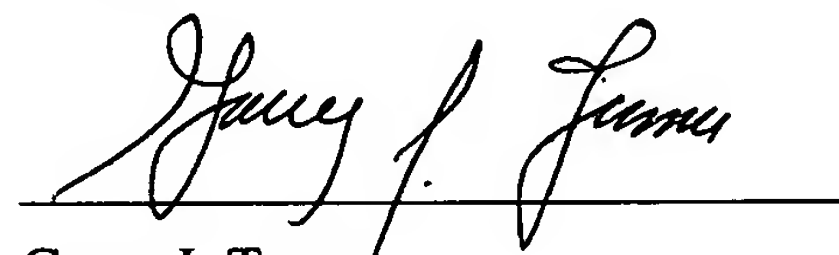
Application No. 10/647,587
May 3, 2006 Reply To Advisory Action

applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed amendments and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 22 and 23.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, entry of the proposed amendments, and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garry J. Tuma", is written over a horizontal line.

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